

20 November 1961

L-23453

Mr. Eric Gustafson  
Littauer Center 124  
Harvard University  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Eric:

The first two sections of the enclosed paper represents work that I did several years ago on the Savage axioms; the third section is new thinking on the rationale of the behavior described. Since I finished this paper (it will appear in the Quarterly Journal of Economics), I have been spending the last couple of months expanding the approach considerably and examining areas in which it might be applicable. Obviously, RAD is one of these, since the general subject matter of my work is decision-making under conditions of "considerable ignorance," situations in which available information is scanty, vague or conflicting.

Eurt Klein was probably referring to some conversations we had on the subject; I haven't as yet written anything out on this particular application. (Some other fields I am particularly considering are strategic intelligence, high-level command and control, and systems analysis methodology.) As I get more of this written down, I'll send it along to you. Meanwhile, this first installment may give you a feel for the general nature of my approach.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ellsberg  
Economics Department

DM:cap